69-01 35th Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY
11377
June 1, 1971

Mr. John Leonard
Editor - New York Times Book Review
Times Square, New York NY 10036

Dear Mr. Leonard:

After I spoke to you this morning I called Mr. Weisberg to relate to him what you had told me about an upcoming full-page roundup of letters on Frame-Up.

First of all, I told him that you recalled no letter to Wolff enclosed. He suggested that you may have been referring to the letter he sent you on May 25, rather than the one in question which was dated May 30. Enclosed in that letter was a copy of a NY Times editorial, " Tongue-Tied Justice," and a letter dated 8/28/66 from Mr. Weisberg to Mr. Wolff in which Harold Weisberg refers to Mr. Wolff's revelations to him that he had been ordered not to review Whitewash. Mr. Weisberg told me that he never received the Wolff letter which the Times reprinted on May 30, and he doubts very much that you sent it. He told me that he has given the matter further thought, and he feels that what the Times has done may well be actionable. It is his feeling that the publication of Wolff's letter along with Kaplan's review with no space accorded to him to respond to either constitutes clear malice on the part of the Times.

I am including at Mr. Weisberg's request excerpts of the NY Times article which accompanied the release of John Kaplan's book, " The Trial of Jack Ruby." As you can see, Kaplan attacks Weisberg for faulting the very things in Ray's trial which Kaplan faulted in Ruby's.

I want you to know that I still do not believe that you personally are responsible for what the Times is doing to kill this book, but it is being done in your name, and you have apparently done nothing to stop it or, more importantly, to correct it, and this in itself is reprehensible. I do not know what goes on behind the scenes, but I have emerged from this episode a little less naive than I was before. When I called Mr. Weisberg after I spoke to you originally I assured him that you were extremely unhappy about the Kaplan review, and I told him that I was sure you would correct it. He was doubtful, and he, not I, was right.

At this point a full page roundup of letters can hardly rectify the wrong that has been done. Kaplan's review has doubtless discouraged other reviews, and it undoubtedly convinced many bookstores that Frame-Up was not worth ordering. It surely convinced many readers of the Times that it was not worth reading. Nothing short of a new and unbiased review of Frame-Up in the pages of the Times can rectify this at best immoral treatment which the Times has afforded this book on a most important of subjects. In the light of recent events, I doubt very much that I will see another review, however.

I hope that you do not read the tone of this letter as anger. I assure you that it is written much more in sadness than anything else. All I can say is God help us if the same treatment is afforded all other men of conscience who, like Harold Weisberg, have the courage to speak out.

Sincerely,

Jerry Policoff